

NOT ENOUGH TIME.

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WILL BE EXTENDED.

WILL PROBABLY END WEDNESDAY.

The Great Fight Over Appropriations Must Be Fought Out Ere Adjournment—Causes Favor Popular Vote on Constitutional Convention.

The General Assembly will probably adjourn Wednesday, though the term of ninety days expires to-morrow.

This was almost the universal opinion among the leaders of the two houses, though probably the most prominent man in the Senate expressed the belief that adjournment Thursday was very probable. "One or two thought the end might come Tuesday night, but they were in a lonesome minority."

There is not a great variety of work for the two houses to do, but it makes up in difficulty what it lacks in amount. The House has not yet finished the appropriation bill. It will not be finished before late to-morrow afternoon, at the earliest; it may be that it will not leave the House until Tuesday.

THE TWO HOUSES NOT AGREE.

Enough has been seen to make it certain that from start to finish the bill will be quite a different measure from that which was put through the Senate so easily, and this fact is assurance that a final agreement between the two branches will be reached only after a bitter fight in conference on the floor. The same opinion, however, that the session would hardly terminate before Thursday was also of the opinion that the final fight over the appropriations would be the fiercest fought in the Senate in years. Those who believed they are in duty bound to reduce appropriations as greatly as proposed in the bill now being fought through the House, as well as those who think it retrenches to a point at which the efficiency of the public service is in the last ditch, and the fight this week will be of that grim character of battles where the victory and defeat of ideas is to be the result.

MUST BE A COMPROMISE.

It is no more possible to predict the outcome with accuracy than it was a week ago. It will, of course, be a compromise—an increase over the amounts of the House bill, a decrease from the amounts of the Senate bill. Whether it will be more like the Senate bill or the House bill, which it reaches Governor House, only Omniscience knows. The House, in addition to disposing of the appropriation bill, has also to take some sort of action upon the Senate resolution to submit to the people the question of holding a constitutional convention. There is reason to believe that the resolution will not get through this body so easily as through the Senate, if at all. The vote will be close.

CAUCUS FAVORS A CONVENTION.

The Democratic caucus held last night to discuss the question of calling a constitutional convention, after considerable argument, adopted a resolution, to the effect that it was the sense of the body that the question should be submitted to the people at a special election to be held on the 11th of August, 1898.

According to the resolution under which the body was proceeding, this action does not bind the members to support such a resolution on the floor of either branch of the General Assembly.

Mr. Cooke, the chairman, Mr. Saunders called the caucus to order. Mr. Stubbs was then requested to take the chair, and Mr. Saunders said that it was time that the body took some action on the matter, and if they didn't then there was no use in bothering longer. It was evident from the small attendance, that the members were taking little interest in the matter.

HOW IT MIGHT BE.

If there was any man who could show that by any retrenchment could meet the necessities of the next few years, then the question was solved without bothering with any constitutional convention. But as yet no man had shown that. There was no doubt about the ground on which the session was in favor of a convention. The question to be decided was, whether it should be submitted to the people in the fall or spring. He thought the coming fall was the best time.

Mr. Blanton offered a resolution to the effect that the question of calling a constitutional convention be submitted to the people at the spring election of 1899.

WANTED IT A PARTY ISSUE.

Judge Watkins said that he was much disappointed to hear that because some one wanted to go to Congress that we are to be troubled with a party issue. He will not do to submit this call for a convention at a time when these gentlemen were before the people for election. He thought the interests of the State were greater than the question of gentlemen.

He thought the question should be made a party issue.

Mr. Pletcher said that when the people wanted a convention they would ask for it. They hadn't done so yet.

Mr. Parker said that he preferred to submit the question in the fall. The people had been frightened off by calling a constitutional convention by being told that the Republicans might control such a body. For his part, he would prefer to have a convention controlled by that party than to have one controlled by the other.

Mr. Parker said that if the question was submitted in the spring there would be but a repetition of last May. He thought it should be submitted at an election held simply to decide that one question, when the latter would be the sole issue. He believed that a constitutional convention should be held.

THE PEOPLE LAKEWARM.

Captain Minter said that until the people saw the necessity for a convention, one would not be called. The people were lukewarm now, and the next time the question was submitted it must be won. Therefore, he urged the body not to precipitate the matter, but to wait until the people began to "mutter and growl."

Mr. Stabbe said that the body should pass a resolution before adjourning, requesting that the question of calling a convention be submitted to the people.

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONVENTION.

Mr. James Mann, of Nottingham, offered a resolution providing "that the General Assembly pass a resolution submitting to the people at the general election of November next whether or not there shall be a constitutional convention, and, if so, to call for a convention, to be held on the 11th of August, 1898."

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